

Lehman (F)



ADLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956.



To:- The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Adlington.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December 1956.

The number of births attributable to the District were 17 more than in the previous year, giving a Birth Rate of 16.1 per 1000 population as compared with the Birth Rate for the country as a whole of 15.7.

The number of deaths attributable to the District was 3 fewer than in the year 1955, giving a Death Rate of 11.8 per 1000 population as compared with the Death Rate for the country as a whole of 11.7. In regard to causes of death, heart disease was accountable for 10 more deaths than in the previous year, whilst the number of deaths from malignant neoplasms was reduced by 7.

It is pleasing to note that there were no deaths from tuberculosis. There was one death from this cause in 1955. Deaths from other causes show only minor variations.

The number of infants who died before reaching one year of age was 4 as compared with 2 in the previous year.

In regard to notifications of infectious diseases, there were 262 as compared with only 26 in 1955. This increase was due to an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough.

The Council's proposals in regard to slum clearance have not yet been put into effect, but it is intended that these will receive further consideration in the near future.

The Council's decision, taken towards the end of the year, to chlorinate the water supply obtained from the Thirlmere Aqueduct was, in my opinion, a very wise one.

The Clean Air Act, 1956 received the Royal Assent during the year, and certain provision of the Act came into force on 31st December 1956. This Act, when fully operative, will enable Local Authorities to combat the problem of atmospheric pollution.

Attention has been given during the year to the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, but this matter will require more action to obtain the requisite standards.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Officers of the Council for their willing assistance at all times. My thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the support and consideration extended to me.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER.

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1957.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ADLLINGTON

VITAL STATISTICS 1956

Area	...	...	1062 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid 1956)	...	...	4150
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	1356
Rateable Value at 1st April 1956	...	...	£20,954.
Product of 1d Rate	...	...	£78-13-10d.

Births

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	...	35	31	66
Illegitimate	...	1	-	1
		<u>36</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>67</u>

Birth Rate per 1000 population ... Crude = 16.1
Adjusted = 17.4

Stillbirths	...	1	-	1
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		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths</u>		26	23	49

Death Rate per 1000 population ... Crude = 11.8
Adjusted = 13.1

Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	Nil.
Maternal Mortality	...	Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year	...	Male 1) Female 3)	Total = 4
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Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	...	Male 1) Female 1)	Total = 2
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All infants per 1000 live births (i.e. Infant Mortality Rate)	60
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Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7
do. Measles	-
do. Whooping Cough	-
do. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-

Causes of Death

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis	...	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	2	3	5
Coronary disease (angina)	...	6	1	7
Other Heart disease	...	5	7	12
Hypertension with Heart disease	...	1	2	3
Other circulatory diseases	...	1	-	1
Pneumonia	...	-	-	-
Bronchitis	...	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasms	...	3	4	7
Suicide	...	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	1	3	4
Other accidents	...	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	...	-	1	1
Motor Accidents	...	2	-	2
Nephritis	...	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	1	-	1
		<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>49</u>

	Live Births		Deaths (All Causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality			
								Total		Neo-natal	
	No. Register ed	Rate per 1000 pop.	No. Regis- tered.	Rate per 1000 pop.	No. Regis- tered.	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of Deaths Regis- tered.	No. of Deaths Regis- tered.	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of Deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births
Year 1956	67	16.1	49	11.8	1	15	-	-	60	2	30
Year 1955	50	12.2	52	12.7	1	20	-	-	40	1	20
Year 1954	64	15.6	47	11.4	1	15	-	-	78	3	47
Year 1953	63	15.4	38	9.3	-	-	-	-	16	1	16
Year 1952	67	16.4	60	14.7	2	29	-	-	60	3	45
Year 1951	68	17.0	52	13.0	1	14	-	-	29	2	29
Average 5 years 1951 - 1955	62	15.3	50	12.2	1	15.6	-	-	44.6	2	31.4

Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor 1.08) = 17.4 per 1000.
(death-rate (comparability factor 1.11) = 13.1 per 1000

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GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Staff

Medical Officer of Health:- Dr. J. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
L.D.S., D.P.D.

Sanitary Inspector (Part-time):- Norman R. Bolton, R.S.I.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological Laboratory, Preston Royal Infirmary.
Pathological Laboratory, Bolton Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

Provided by Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service.
(Chorley Depot) - Telephone: Chorley 2744.

Nursing in the Home.

There is one "District Nurse" practising in the area. She is
Nurse Holden, 6 Rivington Avenue, Adlington. Telephone Adlington 394.

Treatment Clinics.

The "Minor Ailment" Clinic is held at 20 St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.
Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental and Eye, etc.) are held
at Chorley and attended by Practitioners of Specialist status.
Attendance is by appointment via School Medical Staff.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

The Chest Clinic, 34 St. Thomas's Road, Chorley.
A Chest Physician (Dr. Nicholson) attends.
This Clinic is also used as a consultant clinic for chest conditions
other than tuberculosis.

Hospital Facilities.

For non-infectious cases :-

Chorley and District Hospital.
Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.
Wigan Infirmary.
Bolton Infirmary.
Preston Royal Infirmary.
Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood.
Isolation Hospital, Heath Charnock.

For Infectious cases:-

Whelley Hospital, Wigan.
Isolation Hospital, Deepdale, Preston.

All administered by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

These services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

Domiciliary Facilities.

There is now no County Midwife resident in the District. The service is
provided from adjacent areas.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The large majority of the expectant mothers in the area attend the ante-
natal clinic at 2/4 St. Thomas's Square, Chorley, and avail themselves of the
excellent facilities provided by the Lancashire County Divisional Health Service.

Maternity Beds

Normal accommodation is available at Chorley and District Hospital and Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

Other hospitals are also available.

Infant Welfare Centres.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly (Wednesdays 2-4 p.m.) at the Christ Church Schoolroom, Adlington, and is attended fortnightly by a Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council, as well as the County Health Visitor. The Medical Officer is Dr. Doris J. Black.

Health Visitor.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Mrs. Ashley, 123 Bolton Road, Chorley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The water supply of the area is provided (1) from the Blackrod Reservoir (by arrangement with Blackrod Urban District Council) and (2) from a tapping of the conduits taking the Manchester Supply from Thirlmere (by arrangement with the Manchester Corporation). During the year 21 samples of water from the Manchester supply were submitted for bacteriological analysis. All were reported satisfactory, apart from one, as follows :-

Plate Count	No. B. Coli. per 100ml.	No. faecal coli. per 100ml.	No. non-faecal coli. per 100ml.
4	25	25	1

In view of this and unsatisfactory reports on the same water in a neighbouring district, the matter was reported to the Council with a recommendation that this supply of water be chlorinated. The Council decided to adopt this recommendation and accordingly an order was placed for the supply of a suitable chlorination plant.

As regards the Blackrod supply, this is already chlorinated and samples taken by that authority were consistently satisfactory.

Every house in the area has a "main supply". The average daily consumption was 120,781 gallons which gives a consumption per head of the population of 29.20 gallons daily. The supplies are interchangeable and complementary.

During the year extensions were made to the water mains on the Council's Fair View Housing Site, Brook Street, Ollerton Street, Granville Street and The Common.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Only 34 outlying properties are not connected to the sewerage system. These have septic tanks. Sewerage disposal is by precipitation and filtration over 3 coke filters at the Sewerage Disposal Works at Harrisons Farm. The effluent is discharged into the River Douglas. The Sewage Works was modernised in 1931. Extensions to sewers were undertaken in 1956 to new properties.

Rivers and streams.

These are inspected at intervals by the Inspectors of the Lancashire River Board.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

1399 moveable ashbins are emptied weekly by the Local Authority. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites.

Towards the end of 1956 the Council placed an order for the supply of a 8/8½ cubic yards Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Vehicle to replace the existing horse-drawn vehicle.

Cleansing of Drains and Closets.

Closet accommodation :-

Privy middens: - No. of Middens	...	...	10
No. of Closets attached thereto	...	...	12

No. of Pail closets	...	...	1
No. of freshwater closets	...	...	1697
No. of waste water closets	...	...	6

The onus for the satisfactory maintenance of drains and closets is upon the property owners and such work is not undertaken by the Local Authority.

Lavatories and Urinals.

There are public lavatories at the upper and lower Recreation Grounds, and modern Sanitary Conveniences at Station Road and Babylon Lane. The Conveniences are cleaned daily by the Local Authority's staff.

Shops and Offices.

There are from 90-100 registered Shops in the area. No action was taken under the Shops Acts or Public Health Act, 1936, during the year. The County Council are responsible for the administration of the Shops Acts, your Sanitary Inspector acting as their agent. The Sanitary Inspector made 71 visits to these premises during the year.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the area.

Smoke Abatement.

No. of factory and Works chimneys in area	...	4
No. of observations taken during the year	...	48

No legal proceedings were undertaken for excessive smoke emissions during the year, but personal contact with the firms and their boiler personnel was maintained by the Sanitary Inspector.

Certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into force on 31st December 1956. This is a most important addition to the legislation of the country and aims at removing the danger to health from atmospheric pollution. How soon this aim will be achieved depends largely on the vigorous implementation of the Act by Local Authorities.

Among the provisions now brought into force are those dealing with the installation of new furnaces, the height of certain new chimneys, Smoke Control Areas and the making of building byelaws providing that the types of appliances to be installed in new buildings for heating or cooking shall be suitably designed for burning smokeless fuels.

The Minister intends to make a further order fixing a date "in the early part of 1958" as the appointed day for the remaining provisions of the Act which are mainly intended to reduce air pollution from industrial sources.

First impressions might be that this Act has little to offer a district such as this but it must be borne in mind that it is estimated that domestic smoke is responsible for fifty per cent of the pollution of the atmosphere. Increasing concern is being focussed on the possible danger arising from the exhaust of motor vehicles. Any steps to control this factor in air pollution must be of interest to this Authority in view of the fact that the important motorway A.6 runs through the district.

Disinfestation of Houses.

Four houses were found to be slightly infested during the year 1956, and were treated with Pyrethum D.D.T. powder with good effect.

Schools.

The water supply of the Schools is from the mains.

Other Matters.

There are in the area no Common Lodging Houses or "Houses let in Lodgings" registered, no swimming baths or pools, no underground sleeping rooms, no premises where rag flock is manufactured, and no premises for the undertaking of offensive trades.

Summary of Sanitary Inspections.

No. of premises visited	...	...	35
No. of visits made to above	...	...	48
No. of nuisances discovered	...	...	35
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	35
No. of informal Notices served	...	...	35
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...	nil.

There were no legal proceedings for the abatement of nuisances.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(1) By Local Authority	...	...	-
(2) By other Local Authorities	...	...	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	...	...	10

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	43
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	...	...	47
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:			
(a) No. found during year	...	...	-
(b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year	...	...	51
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	19

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):-

(1) No. of dwelling houses demolished during year			
(a) Unfit houses	...	...	nil
(b) Other houses	...	...	nil
(2) No. of persons displaced	...	...	nil

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-

(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:			
(a) Housing Act, 1936 -			
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	...	...	nil
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.			nil
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	...	...	nil
(b) Housing Act 1949 -			
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	...	...	nil
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.			
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	...	...	nil
(2) Repairs during the year:			
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	...	...	35
(b) Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied -			
(i) By owners	...	...	nil
(ii) By local authority in default of owners			nil

(c) Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16):

Houses made fit -

(i) By Owners ... nil
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ... nil

(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954:

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ... nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 ... nil
(2) No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above ... nil
(3) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) ... nil

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc. :-

	Private bodies or individuals.		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of dwell. houses or other bldgs. affected.	No. of Schemes.	No. of dwell. hses or other buildings affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	-	-	-	-
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-	-	-
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-	-	-
(d) Work completed	1	1	-	-
(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	-			
(f) Any other action taken under the Act.	None.			

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Although houses built since 1914 are brick, houses built before that date are mainly stone-built with slated roofs. These are mostly of the two or three bedroom terrace type and lack modern amenities such as food stores, bathrooms, hot water systems etc. Their average age is 60 years, and the prevailing defects are dampness and to a much lesser extent roofs, but for the most part they are well-maintained. Many of these houses are now owner-occupied and are gradually being modernised.

During the year the County Council have introduced a scheme for the Housing of the Aged. This scheme offered grants to Housing Authorities for the provision of certain welfare facilities (e.g. warden, laundry, common room, etc.) in connection with the authorities' "Housing of the Aged". It may be that this authority has not a sufficient population to warrant participation in this scheme, nevertheless, the Council might give serious consideration to this question in future housing projects, as the care of aged persons is a matter which is giving many local authorities much concern.

Housing Schemes

A further 16 houses on the Fair View Farm Housing Site have been started during the year, and should be completed in the early part of 1957.

Overcrowding or Housing Shortage

39 applications for houses were received during the year, 11 of which were from persons living outside Adlington. Only 6 of the Adlington applicants were not already living in their own home. There was only one case of overcrowding on the housing list, and arrangements were made for this family to be transferred to a four bedroom parloured house in January 1957.

INFECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

In April 1956 the Milk (Special Designations)(Specified Areas) Order came into force, and so far as Adlington is concerned, it became necessary for retailers to sell only designated milk - Tuberculin-tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised.

There are 4 producer-retailers with premises in Adlington and 4 retailers with premises outside the district retailing milk in Adlington. In addition, there are 4 shops licensed to sell Sterilized milk.

(b) Meat.

There is only one licensed slaughterhouse within the district, and this is only used in case of emergency.

There are 5 Butchers and one Pork Butcher in the district, and 12 visits were made to these shops during the year, and meat preparing premises.

(c) Other Foods.

Places where other foods are prepared, or kept for sale are inspected frequently by the Public Health Inspector.

There are 10 small bakehouses and 4 fried fish shops in the district - all are kept in a satisfactory condition.

28 Inspections of places where food is prepared were made during the year by the Public Health Inspector.

The following list gives the number of Food Premises by type of business in the district at the end of the year under review:-

General Grocers and provision dealers	...	...	22
Greengrocers and fruiterers (inc. fishmongers etc.)	...	...	7
Fishmongers (inc. poultry, game, etc.) only	...	...	-
Meat Shops (butchers, cooked & preserved meat etc.)	...	...	6
Bakers and/or confectioners	...	...	10
Fried fish shops	...	...	4
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc....	...	...	10
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, cafes, snack bars	...	...	18
Others	...	...	36

Unsound Food.

During the year the following food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-

Cooked Gammon	267 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	
Australian Frozen Egg.	28 lbs.	
Processed Peas	5 lbs. 13 ozs.	(6 tins)
Garden Peas	11 lbs. 10 ozs.	(12 tins)
Grade I Salmon	1 lb. 4 ozs.	(5 tins)
Evaporated Milk	5 lbs.	(5 tins)
Tinned Soup	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	(8 tins)

Ice-Cream.

Ice-cream retailed throughout the district is confined to pre-packed standard brands.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Since the coming into operation of the new Food Hygiene Regulations, visits have been made to the various food premises within the district with a view to assessing their requirements in the light of the Regulations.

The response by the various trades to the standards is so far very encouraging.

Rodent Control

The following table gives the work done during the year.

	<u>Type of Property</u>				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural.	All other inc. business prem.	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Total no. of properties in Local Authority's District	8	1327	14	161	1510
No. of properties insp. by Local Auth. during 1956 as a result of (a) Notification (b) Survey or otherwise.	a. -	8	-	1	9
	b. 8	83	14	24	129
No. of properties insp. (see above) found to be infested by rats.	Major. 2	-	-	-	2
	Minor. 2	8	-	2	12
No. of properties insp. (see above) found to be seriously infested with mice.	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Block control schemes carried out.	nil.				

PREVENTION OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year the following cases were notified :-

			<u>1956.</u>	<u>1945.</u>
Measles	...	...	192	22
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	66	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1

It is gratifying to note that this has been the 12th successive year without a Diphtheria case notified.

Tuberculosis.

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was added to the Register during the year.

